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shown in the preparation of this handsome volume. For linguistic purposes, certainly, it would be interesting to know the frequency of some forms which he has omitted. The archaic *quei* for *quel*, which has caused some differences in the text, might well have been included in the less common forms of common words, as *en* and *sie*.

But this, it is to be hoped, will come in time, as also what seems a natural corollary to this labor—a concordance to the prose works—involving even greater drudgery (from the corrupt state of the text of the 'Convito' particularly), and more thankless, too, covering longer stretches of somewhat arid matter. But the service to DANTE students would be second only to that already done them by PROFESSOR FAY.

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ENGLISH LITERATURE.

English Writers: an Attempt towards a History of English Literature. By HENRY MORLEY, LL. D., Professor of English Literature at University College, London. Vol. iv. *The Fourteenth Century*. In Two Books.—Book i. Cassell & Co., Limited, London, 1889.

PROFESSOR MORLEY'S 'History of English Literature' is gradually progressing, and we have now reached the literature of the fourteenth century, before CHAUCER. The present volume includes from the 'Romaunt of the Rose' to LANGLAND, and the literature now begins to be of more general interest. This volume will be found more interesting and less digressive than any that has preceded it. The first two chapters alone discuss subjects lying outside of English literature proper, but here they are closely connected with it; namely, the French 'Romaunt of the Rose,' and PETRARCH and BOCCACCIO. A summary is given of the French poem by GUILLAUME DE LORRIS (1230) and its continuation by JEAN DE MEUNG (1270), but the discussion of the English translation is postponed to the next volume, on CHAUCER. A very full account of the life of PETRARCH is given, and a shorter notice of BOCCACCIO, but we miss any critical treatment of the influence of Italian upon Eng-

lish literature in this century; perhaps this, too, is only postponed. RICHARD OF BURY and his Latin 'Philobiblon' chiefly occupy the following chapter. PROFESSOR MORLEY has recently made this curious work accessible to all in the last volume (63) of his Universal Library, and it has just been critically edited by E. C. THOMAS. The Miracle Plays are next treated in an interesting manner, each of the four series, Chester, Towneley, Coventry, and York, being noticed more or less fully; and in the "Last Leaves" to this volume PROFESSOR MORLEY calls attention to the article of HOHLFELD in the current (eleventh) volume of *Anglia* (pp. 219-310) on "Die altenglischen Kollektivmysterien." The 'Cursor Mundi' is, for the first time in any history of English literature, considered with due regard to its importance,—after DR. MORRIS'S edition for the E. E. T. S (which, it may be hoped, will be completed soon),—and together with it the Northern collection of Homilies and the Southern, of Legends. GOWER fills three chapters, nearly one hundred pages, a space disproportionate to his importance some may think, but we have, also for the first time as far as I know, a pretty full summary of his Latin 'Vox Clamantis,' and the fullest that I have met with of his 'Confessio Amantis.' PAULI'S edition (3 vols., 1857) is duly referred to as "the best text of GOWER'S English poem," but it needs re-editing. It may be remarked in passing that PROFESSOR MORLEY says (p. 221), that CHAUCER told the story of Rosiphele in the 'Flower and the Leaf.' It is to be hoped that before the next volume appears he will have revised his opinion as to the Chaucerian authorship of that poem. I rather suspect that it is a statement repeated without revision from the old edition of 'English Writers' of twenty years ago. The Latin Chronicles of the fourteenth century follow, the most important of which is the 'Polichronicon' of RALPH HIGDEN, with the English translation of TREVISA (1387). PROFESSOR MORLEY mentions the edition in the *Rolls Series* as edited by MR. CHURCHILL BABINGTON; but MR. BABINGTON edited only two of the nine volumes, and it was completed by the REV. J. R. LUMBY. The next chapter, entitled "War and Religion," includes several

writers, such as LAWRENCE MINOT, RICHARD ROLLE, DAN MICHEL, and WILLIAM OF SHOREHAM, and their works. MINOT'S lyrical war poems (1333-52) receive due recognition, and they well deserve it, for they are *sui generis* at this period, but while SCHOLLE'S edition (1884) in *Quellen und Forschungen* is mentioned, PROFESSOR MORLEY omits MR. JOSEPH HALL'S more recent useful little edition in the *Clarendon Press Series* (1887). A summary of the 'Legend of Theophilus' closes this chapter. In connection with this legend reference may be made here to LUDORFF'S article in *Anglia* (vii, 110-115) on WILLIAM FORREST'S 'Theophiluslegende,' written in the sixteenth century (see my report of *Anglia* in *Amer. Journal of Phil.*, vi, 371). The following chapter notices the so-called 'Travels' of Sir JOHN MAUNDEVILLE, and, after the article of MR. NICHOLSON and COL. YULE in the ninth edition of the 'Encyclopedia Britannica' (vol. xv), PROFESSOR MORLEY rightly says (p. 283): "The English version was made by an unknown translator, at the beginning of the fifteenth century, from a defective copy of the French original." The present writer used to wonder why writers of histories of English literature placed the English version of these 'Travels' in the middle of the fourteenth century, earlier than any of the poems of CHAUCER, when the language is so manifestly later. His mind was never satisfied on the subject until this article of COL. YULE and MR. NICHOLSON appeared, which has given its true position to this English version. It is hoped that writers of manuals of English literature for schools will take note of it, and not continue to perpetuate the blunder, as yet uncorrected in them. Attention may be called to a slight chronological oversight near the top of p. 283.

The last chapter treats very fully WILLIAM LANGLAND and his 'Vision of Piers Plowman,' of course after PROFESSOR SKEAT'S *magnum opus*. Here, too, we have a full summary of the contents of the work, and this is PROFESSOR MORLEY'S great service in the present volume, making accessible to the general public the contents of works in English literature of the fourteenth century which are not as well

known as they ought to be. While very much fuller in this respect than TEN BRINK'S 'Early English Literature,' we miss the criticism that characterizes that work. However, there will be more room for it in the volumes to follow, and I trust that the author will not be so sparing of it; for he shows himself well acquainted with the latest investigations, and is eminently qualified to give us a critical, as well as a descriptive, history of English literature. After a life spent in this labor, PROFESSOR MORLEY possesses qualifications for the work which we shall not soon find in another, and we may hope that the work will be so written as not to need re-writing in any respect.

A concluding remark may be made with respect to PROFESSOR MORLEY'S modernizing of LANGLAND'S language in certain passages quoted. He has followed the C-text and has changed the forms, as if the spelling made no difference, intending thereby to make the language more intelligible to the general reader; but it seems to me that it would be better to stick to PROFESSOR SKEAT'S text, for the risk is run of writing no English, neither that of the fourteenth century nor of the present day; for example, on p. 331, we find the past participles *underfong* and *hold*: the original text has better *underfonge* and *holde*, shortened forms of the fuller *underfongen* and *holden* of the B-text. So p. 333, PROFESSOR MORLEY writes *wotst* for *wost*; but *wost* alone is correct, for it is the direct descendant of the Old English *wāst*. These may seem small points, but it is better to give the original text with explanations when necessary.

We are informed (p. 361) that "the fifth and sixth volumes should follow in May and October, 1889," which "will complete the record of the Fourteenth Century, and carry it on from CHAUCER to CAXTON." I trust that no "unforeseen event" may occur, and that we may soon have the volume on CHAUCER and WYCLIF.

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